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8 July 1971

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION WITH COLONEL WHITE

25X1 A. Clandestine Service to manage its own historical program under the general guidance of the Chief of the CIA Historical Staff.  specifies direction by C/CIA/HS which he is increasingly inclined to exercise.

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B. If above rejected propose CS participation in management of the overall Agency program -- Chief, or at least Deputy Chief of CIA/HS.

C. Acquisition of historical writers - primarily annuitants - on contract to prepare CS histories. Suitable histories can only be written by competent writers.

D. Revision of the CS historical program: Histories now in preparation which can be finished in acceptable form by the end of 1971 will be published. Would then re-examine our ongoing program to determine what histories should be written, and in what order of priority.

E. Security: Ensure that suitable controls are exercised over access to and handling of CS histories and historical documents in accordance with degree of sensitivity. CS information contained in other directorate and overall histories to be suitably protected.

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COMMENT ON ABOVE POINTS

A. Direction:

(1). The CS historical program should be withdrawn from the overall Agency program and from direction by the Chief of the CIA Historical Staff. It should be run from within the Clandestine Service as a separate, compartmented activity consistent with the sensitivity of the operations with which it deals. The Chief of the CIA Historical Staff would provide general guidance with regard to the relation of the CS program to the overall Agency historical effort. His point of contact would be the CS Historical Board.

(2). The overall Agency historical program should be directed by a career Agency officer from the Clandestine Service or from other Agency components. Outside scholars, if engaged, should serve as consultants, not as executives. As to who might head up an autonomous CS historical program --- or participate in management of the overall program, suggest mention that we have somebody

in mind.

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B. Personnel:

25X1A2G (1). In order to improve the caliber of historical writers we propose to hire, under Project [REDACTED], an increased number of annuitants to work in the CS program. We envisage up to 20 or so such people, depending on availability and qualifications. [REDACTED] is now being engaged on a one year contract as CS historical writer. We are considering [REDACTED] 25X1A9A [REDACTED] as possibilities and will search for others. 25X1A9A

(2). Additionally, components will be urged to assign qualified officers from their current T/O's to serve tours as historical writers. Overriding priorities, however, will probably continue to limit their ability to make such assignments.

C. Program:

We will proceed with completion of histories now in preparation and make the best showing we can by the end of 1971. Meanwhile the CS Historical Board will review what remains of the catch-up phase

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of the program, take into consideration other subjects for monographs, and arrange them in order of priority. Preparation of station histories would be de-emphasized, but not necessarily abandoned. Under this new program we would move ahead as expeditiously as possible with the writing talent available, stressing quality, however, rather than volume or number of histories.

D. Security:

The above recommended changes would enhance the security and compartmentation of the CS historical program. Certain histories of other Agency components, published and in draft also contain descriptions of CS programs and operations, notably, overall Agency histories and those of the DDS. We would like to ensure that access to these histories is controlled in a manner consistent with their content and sensitivity. We propose that suitable procedures be worked out in a manner agreed to by DDP and DDS managements in consultation with C/CIA/HS.

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E. Miscellaneous Comment:

(1). Direct involvement of non-CS personnel in the CS historical program is not consistent with traditional and desirable compartmentation. Under the present system, some CS components are inclined to avoid submitting sensitive papers and such histories as are prepared are written in such broad terms as to negate their usefulness. The present C/CIA/Historical Staff has provided useful guidance to the writers in the techniques of historical research and writing. This is, however, a consultant function and need not and should not involve intrusion into detailed management responsibilities.

(2). We do not advocate a change during the tenure of the present C/CIA/HS, assuming that his contract expires during 1971.

(3). Another essential element in an effective CS historical program is the employment of qualified writers. Hiring of carefully selected annuitants

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under the  Project is essential to a suitable rate of production of well written and well documented histories. Under the formula for re-hiring annuitants the cost would not be great-- much less than the salaries of equivalent, current staff employees.

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